(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) to (c) Environmental pollution and food contamination may pose health risks. The steps taken for control of environmental pollution include formulation of Comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal & bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening net-work of air & water quality monitoring stations, assessment of pollution load and source apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities & critically polluted areas. An Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Environment and Human Health and a Task Force on Environment and Human Health have been constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to oversee the implementation of various programmes and activities. Besides, a Vision Statement on Environment and Human Health has been brought out which includes environmental health problems posed by air pollution, water pollution, radiation, noise pollution, climate change, indoor air pollution, hazardous and bio-medical wastes.

Radio collar for Royal Bengal Tigers

3204. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposal to radio collar the Royal Bengal Tigers in sunderbans in order to trackdown their movement and behaviour and has also sanctioned Rs. 25 lakh for the purpose;

(b) if so, whether the movement and behaviour of Royal Bengal Tigers is already well researched and documented;

(c) how does Government propose to fix radio collars and conduct DNA test on tigers;

(d) whether there is any possibility of death of some tigers in the process;

(e) whether it would not amount to cruelty to animals; and

(f) if not, how does Government support its opinion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (f) Questions do not arise.

Failure of Bt Cotton

3205. DR. M.N. DAS:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been receiving continuous report from NGOs on large-scale failure of Bt cotton in various parts of the country and Centre has sent reminders to all the State Government to send an official performance appraisal on India's first GM crop;

(b) if so, whether number of companies are said to be preparing the ground for introduction of Bt cotton for test trials this season;

(c) whether the companies are seeking the Ministry's nod for environmental clearance and the regulatory authority for testing the seed; and

(d) if so, which centre has successfully tested the trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV):(a) Greenpeace, an environmental organization and some newspapers have reported low yield of Bt cotton in the drought prone areas. For the Kharif 2002 season, the Committees constituted by the Ministry visited some of the Bt cotton fields. The Committees observation on the field situation on the basis of discussion with the farmers indicated that the performance of Bt cotton is satisfactory in terms of bollworm infestation and reduction in use of pesticide sprays. However, in view of the newspaper reports regarding failure of Bt cotton, the respective State Dept. of Agriculture and Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur were requested to submit a detailed report on the performance of Bt Cotton. The analysis of the various reports indicates that, the performance of Bt cotton cannot be established based